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ABSTRACT

This publication highlights information, comments, and other materials related to Adult Learners Week (ALW)2000 in Australia. An introduction (Tony Brown)describes the context and events of ALW 2000. A message from the Chair of ALW (Dorothy Lucardie) provides a summary. A list of Highlights, messages from the Patron of ALW (William Deane) and the Prime Minister of Australia (John Howard), and itineraries of two international guests, Stephanie Young and Bob Fryer, follow. Comments from the national launch (Trich Worth, Shane Gould, Bob Fryer) are summarized. Stories of real learners are highlighted. Other sections discuss promotion of ALW; report on ALW 2000 awards for Community Learning Leader and Reconciliation Learning Program and on winners of photo and writing competitions; present comments of Friends of ALW, prominent Australians in a variety of professions who support adult learning; and describe a guide on organizing Learning Festivals and Weeks. Information on award winner and events of state and territory ALW follow for the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, and Western Australia. Appendixes include lists of award winners and National Steering Committee members. (YLB)

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Adult Learners Week REPORT 2000

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Adult Learning Australia Inc

Australian National Training Authority

ADULT LEARNERS WEEK
3–9 September 2000

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LEARNING FOR LIFE

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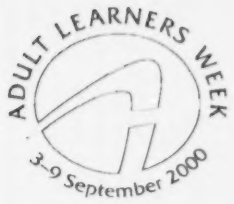

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Introduction

AN ADULT'S EDUCATION AND LEARNING JOURNEY CAN BE UNPREDICTABLE. IT DOESN'T ALWAYS FOLLOW THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO A DESTINATION, OFTEN IT WON'T FOLLOW THE PATH SET OUT BY PLANNERS, AND INDEED THE DESTINATION CAN SHIFT OFTEN AND SOMETIMES QUITE DRAMATICALLY.

The paths followed by each of this year's Faces of ALW illustrate this point. Each person has overcome different barriers – of unemployment, of not speaking English, of being out of the paid workforce for many years while raising a family.

Adult Learners Week recognises their achievements and the achievements of thousands of other adult learners. ALW is a celebration. It celebrates the individual efforts of learners and tutors; the innovative programs aimed at opening up learning opportunities; and of education providers who recognise that learning can make a difference to individuals, groups and communities, that it can in fact change lives.

In addition to celebration, ALW offers the opportunity for us to take stock, to explore new ideas, to reflect on the practice of education and learning, and to discuss and debate public policy on adult education and learning in Australia.

The 1997 Hamburg Declaration on Adult Learning stated that in facing the challenges of the future 'adult education was more than a right, it is a key to the 21st century.' Educators are taking up these challenges and initiatives in areas such as online learning, through learning towns and cities, in learning circles, in new approaches to curriculum and revised approaches to community development. These are all examples of positive responses.

Yet we still lack in Australia a cohesive and integrated national policy that can serve to connect these initiatives and to free up the potential still largely locked behind the existing sectoral boundaries.

In 2000, thousands of events were organised in hundreds of communities around Australia; launches, award presentations, demonstration classes, open days, barbecues, seminars, dinners, conferences, forums and so on. But this year also saw the first internationally coordinated Adult Learners Week. More than 40 countries took part from Russia, Estonia, Germany, Netherlands, Finland and Britain in Europe, to Benin, Egypt, South Africa and Senegal in Africa, and India, the Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong and New Zealand in the Asia Pacific. In each case they celebrate the efforts and achievements of the many who find the courage to 'take that first step back.'

At the dawn of this new century it is sobering to realise that in the world there are still 113 million children without access to primary education and 880 million adults, the majority of them women, who are illiterate. It is against this background that the first international Adult Learners Week was organised. Each country's experience shapes the kind of learning needs that are most relevant and important. It is not surprising then that in Africa literacy is the greatest concern, that in parts of Europe such as Estonia the creation of democratic structures and civil society is the central theme, in Bosnia it is the further education of adults working with those traumatised by war. In parts of Asia such as in Singapore and Hong Kong it is about the new challenges posed by economic development.

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An integral part of Adult Learners Week in Australia is the participation of international guests. The experiences shared and gained strengthen our understanding of adult learning in an international context. In 2000 Stephanie Young and Bob Fryer made great contributions to the Week. Stephanie brought with her the experience of Glasgow's efforts in reshaping itself as a learning city gained through her work as Director of Lifelong Learning with Scottish Enterprise. Stephanie spoke to groups in Toowoomba, Brisbane, Orange, Melbourne and Adelaide, generating considerable interest in the idea of the learning city and providing a useful contribution to those cities and towns that have recently declared themselves as learning communities.

Bob Fryer, Chair of the UK government's national advisory committee on lifelong learning, was able to present a rich picture of the learning age initiatives being pioneered in the UK. He described the large-scale changes underway in the UK as the government attempts to implement its learning age agenda. Audiences who heard him in Sydney, Canberra, Albury/Wodonga, Melbourne and Adelaide and through national and local media outlets were able to hear first-hand the rationale behind the UK's plans. Bob's enthusiasm, vitality and critical insights were well received wherever he spoke.

Shane Gould was our special guest at this year's national launch in Canberra, along with Trish Worth, MP. Shane is well known as an Olympian and more recently as a Masters swimming champion. But there was another reason why Shane was an ideal person to launch ALW. As her autobiography *Tumble Turns* attests, she is a lifelong learner. In her speech at the launch Shane recounted some of her numerous informal and formal learning experiences of the past 25 years.

Adult Learners Week is now an anticipated event on the Australian education calendar. Importantly a broader range of organisations are embracing the Week. As the idea of the learning age and learning communities grows stronger in Australia, Adult Learners Week will remain a central focus for celebrating learning achievements. This report highlights ALW 2000.

Tony Brown
Executive Director
Adult Learning Australia

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MESSAGE
from the Chair of Adult Learners Week

AN INTERNATIONAL ADULT LEARNERS WEEK WAS CELEBRATED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2000.

Over 40 countries participated and the International Launch was held on 8 September, International Literacy Day. Australia has led the way in celebrating and acknowledging adult learners over the past six years.

Year 2000 Adult Learners Week has been an outstanding success, building upon the experience of the preceding 5 years. Adult Learners were celebrated and acknowledged at local, state and national levels.

We were privileged to have Shane Gould launch the national celebrations and share her learning experiences as an adult. International visitors Bob Fryer and Stephanie Young travelled around four states to share their enthusiasm and expertise with their Australian colleagues.

The national campaign materials reflected four adult learners and their stories. For those people in the community who do not see themselves as learners these stories and individuals provided real inspiration.

At the end of the week a National Conference on Lifelong Learning was held in Adelaide and provided a major focus upon lifelong learning in Australia.

I wish to congratulate all the people across Australia who organised events or participated in activities for Adult Learners Week. I also would like to congratulate Tony Brown, Marita Hefler, ALA staff and Green Advertising for their commitment, enthusiasm and work in the months prior to and during Adult Learners Week.

The Australian National Training Authority, the MCEETYA ACE Task Force and the Adult Learners Week National Steering Committee have supported Adult Learners Week consistently. I would like to thank these groups for their continued support and look forward to Adult Learners Week 2001.

Dorothy Lucardie
Chairperson
National Steering Committee
Adult Learners Week.

Highlights

- Television and radio community service announcements featuring three of the 'faces' of ALW were broadcast in every state and territory of Australia.
- Print media coverage for the Week reached an all-time high, with over 200 articles about the Week appearing in newspapers all over the country.
- Shane Gould lent a special touch to the national launch of the Week when she related some of her personal learning experiences, highlighting the fact that 'learning happens in the most unlikely places'.
- Two international guests – Stephanie Young of Scottish Enterprise Glasgow and Bob Fryer of the University for Industry, UK – spent the duration of the Week attending a number of functions in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Fran Kelly of Radio National interviewed Bob Fryer on the morning of 8 September.
- 'Agenda for the Future: Lifelong Learning in Australia', a two-day national conference was held in Adelaide, with delegates attending from all over Australia. The conference was jointly hosted by Adult Learning Australia and the Australian National Commission for UNESCO.
- Well over 500 organisations around Australia held thousands of activities and events to celebrate the Week.
- Both the Australian Human Resources Institute and the Australian Institute for Training & Development supported Learning Works Day by distributing information to approximately 18,000 members through their journals.
- Use of the ALW website more than doubled from 1999, with around 85,000 hits recorded each month in August and September.

MESSAGE from the Patron of Adult Learners Week

AS GOVERNOR-GENERAL, AND AS THE NATIONAL PATRON OF ADULT LEARNERS WEEK 2000, I AM VERY PLEASED TO SEND THIS MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND GOODWILL TO ALL THOSE PARTICIPATING IN ITS VARIOUS ACTIVITIES.

Adult Learners Week is a time to celebrate and promote adult learning and education in Australia. It aims to encourage more adult Australians to continue to develop their knowledge and skills, by changing the common perception that learning ceases with the end of school or university.

In the context of a modern world subject to constant change, whether in terms of technology, the economy, or society in general, this is becoming increasingly important. If Australia is to capitalise on such change, then it is essential that all Australians remain open to new ways of doing things – and this entails a recognition that we will be learning throughout our lives.

Adult learning can help to create employment opportunities. It can help people in their own personal development, enhance their involvement in their community, and enable them to make new friends. From all of this it is apparent that the value of lifelong learning goes beyond the individual concerned, and extends to the wider community. Indeed, it is now recognised as one of the keys to the success of people and nations in the twenty-first century.

An opportunity to highlight the diversity of learning opportunities available to adults is thus most worthy of our support. I send you every good wish for the success of Adult Learners Week 2000.

Sir William Deane
Governor-General
of the Commonwealth of Australia

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MESSAGE from the Prime Minister of Australia

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO SEND MY BEST WISHES TO ADULT LEARNING AUSTRALIA, AS THE PEAK NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION IN THE FIELD OF ADULT LEARNING, AND TO THE SUPPORTERS AND PARTICIPANTS IN THIS YEAR'S ADULT LEARNERS WEEK.

Adult Learners Week is now an established focal point in the adult learning calendar. This year, with the inclusion of Australia in international celebrations, it can be expected that the momentum and profile of the event will grow and focus more attention on all those involved in adult learning in the community. The week-long celebrations provide an ideal opportunity to publicly recognise achievements that have already been made and to discuss new challenges for the future.

Today the benefits and attractions of adult community education are widely recognised with hundreds of thousands of adults participating every week in a growing range of activities in increasingly diverse settings. The potential benefits to Australia as a learning society are great, as each learner gains in the knowledge and confidence to respond to the challenges of social, economic and technological change.

My government is pleased to financially support adult learning through your organisation, and this week's activities.

I wish all those involved in this sixth year of Australian Adult Learners Week a memorable celebration and trust that the added dimension of being part of international activities will further enhance this year's experience.

John Howard
Prime Minister

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International Guests of ALW

ADULT LEARNING AUSTRALIA WAS PRIVILEGED TO HOST TWO INTERNATIONAL VISITORS AS PART OF ADULT LEARNERS WEEK 2000.

Bob Fryer is Director of Policy and External Relations at the University for Industry (Ufi) in the UK, and Assistant Vice-Chancellor at Southampton University. He is the author of *Learning for the 21st Century* (1995) and *Creating Cultures for Learning* (1999), which paved the way for the British government's Green Paper *'The Learning Age'*.

Bob's passion for developing a culture of learning that embraces the whole of life and facilitates participatory citizenship made him a fascinating speaker. During the short time he spent in the country, he visited Canberra, Sydney, Albury/Wodonga, Melbourne and Adelaide. He was a guest of the ALW 2000 national launch, guest lecturer at a University of Technology Sydney seminar, speaker at business forums in Albury and Melbourne, and keynote speaker at the National Conference held in Adelaide. He was also interviewed by Fran Kelly on Radio National and participated in a broadcast with Radio 5UV Adelaide (the program can be heard on the internet at http://adelaide.edu.au/5uv/ALW).

As the Director of Lifelong Learning at Scottish Enterprise Glasgow, **Stephanie Young** is one of Scotland's leading authorities on the development and implementation of lifelong learning. She is currently leading the Glasgow Learning Inquiry, aimed at delivering the City's ambition to become a Learning City.

In just five days, Stephanie attended the Queensland launch of ALW and a Learning Cities Workshop in Toowoomba, seminars in Brisbane and Orange, two learning forums and a video conference in Melbourne, and was a keynote speaker at the National Conference in Adelaide. Stephanie's insights into developing learning communities were extremely valuable, particularly given the growing movement towards creating learning communities in Australia. Despite her hectic schedule, she maintained an impressive level of energy and enthusiasm.

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Stephanie Young

Bob Fryer

GUESTS

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National Launch

APPROXIMATELY 80 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE NATIONAL LAUNCH OF ALW 2000, HELD IN CANBERRA ON 4 SEPTEMBER. GUESTS OF HONOUR WERE TRISH WORTH, MP, SHANE GOULD, CHAMPION SWIMMER AND AUTHOR OF THE BOOK *TUMBLE TURNS*, AND BOB FRYER OF THE UNIVERSITY FOR INDUSTRY, UK. DOROTHY LUCARDIE AND TONY BROWN, PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF ADULT LEARNING AUSTRALIA RESPECTIVELY, OFFICIATED.

From left: Tony Brown, Shane Gould, Bob Fryer, Trish Worth, MP.

Trish Worth addressed the launch, reminding us that "...Adult learning is going to become more and more important as [the baby boomer generation] gets older, because we are living in a time of great change, and if we don't keep up with it we're going to be left behind... I think the social structure, our class structure, is no longer just those who are rich and poor as far as financial terms go, but those who are rich and poor in knowledge and life experiences".

SHANE GOULD

Shane Gould related anecdotes about some of her learning experiences, both formal and informal. She described her early years of learning, which took place in the context of her being a famous swimmer at the age of 15, going on to describe how she became involved with a radical Christian group when she was 17: "The group I was involved with was also a drug referral centre, so I was answering the phone sometimes to parents distraught that they'd found drugs in their children's bedroom. I became exposed – that's what education does; it exposes you to new things, new cultures and new ideas, and it can be quite disturbing. It disturbed me so much that it caused me to want to live simply so that others may simply live, and as a result of that I changed my life – education changes lives".

Shane then went on to describe how she and her husband moved to Western Australia to live in a farm where they lived a relatively self-sufficient life, raising animals and growing many of their own vegetables. "The traditional learning we think is through schools and universities and TAFE colleges – I learnt more from my two hour weekly trips to town, talking on the street. I'd say to my husband 'I'm just going to town for a couple of hours', and he'd say

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'No you're not, I'll see you in half a day'. And he was right – because you'd stop and meet people on the street and you'd share ideas... learning happens in different ways".

Shane also related how meeting other parents of young children helped her understand she was not alone in the challenges she faced while raising her four children and gave her the opportunity to discuss issues faced by parents. "That's what education does – it connects you with other people".

In recent years, the path of Shane's life shifted again: "In 1990, I was confronted with myself... I hadn't integrated – I'd turned my back on it all. I had this problem with my career, being Shane Gould, a famous person at 15, Shane Gould the swimmer – it's actually a very narrow identity. I decided to integrate Shane Gould the swimmer with Shane Gould the person." The decision to acknowledge her identity as an athlete led to her researching sports retirement stress, and later assisting in the development of the Athlete Career and Education Program for the Australian Institute of Sport. She continues to encourage elite sporting organisations to have a holistic approach to the development of athletes and their life after sport. "When you learn things and share what you know, you can change the world".

Above all, Shane stressed the many contexts in which learning is possible: "Don't forget that learning happens in the most unlikely situations – around the kitchen table, on street corners corners, in cafes, leaning on the bar in the pub; a lot of education and learning happens in those situations".

BOB FRYER

Bob Fryer talked with great passion about the need for learning to be an integral part of our culture, for people to be able to take charge of their own learning, and to be able to use learning to help shape the world in which they live. An abridged text of his speech follows:

"Lifelong learning is far, far too important to be left to education alone. If you leave it to education it will get distorted. If you leave it to education, it will become academic; and if it becomes academic, it will become exclusive – it will exclude from the delights and the pleasures and the achievements of learning tens of millions of our fellow citizens who could achieve excellence in ways we haven't even imagined.

> [When we talk about lifelong learning], let's make sure that we do mean lifelong. Lifelong learning is not something that just begins when you leave school, [it] isn't something that is just connected with your job, your vocation or maybe your voluntary work. Lifelong learning is truly a cradle to grave concern – it is throughout life.
>
> If we start thinking about lifelong learning only when people have left school... many young people will have already been turned off learning. Their attitudes, aspirations, their sense of themselves, their hopes for the future, their values, their sense of priorities and their achievements – will have already been fixed. For many of them, if we wait until post 16, they'll want nothing more of learning frankly, than that it should leave them alone. If we wait until post 16, you have to get all sorts of compensatory and remedial schemes, which can never escape the deep sense of condescension. You can never recover in the growing child, in the young adult, what they have lost, however much compensation you give them. You will never give them the most important thing that learning can give to anybody – a growing sense of their own share in the making of their destiny.

We are living in times of tremendous change. We hear a great deal about the forces of globalisation and changes in information – the knowledge age, the knowledge-driven economy, the information society, in which we all have to learn to handle, to sift, to criticise, to review, to synthesise information.

It's not enough simply to understand change – if you're going to use learning properly, it's also about adapting to those changes to get the best of it, for yourself, your family, your community, for your company and your country – for all of us as human beings. It's about that practical application of knowledge so that knowledge itself serves social and economic, political, spiritual development. We want learning in a period of great social change as we're living through, not simply for understanding, but also for adaptation and application. But the real purpose of living in a period of social change is to give men and women the wherewithal to help shape that social change according to their priorities, wishes and desires.

Adult learning is actually about citizenship. It is the most precious prize we have in creating a sense of citizenship – through learning we appreciate difference, diversity, plurality. Learning gives us our deepest sense of humanity, which is to take the part of the other and to see the world in different ways."

The 'Faces of ALW 2000'

A NEW APPROACH WAS TAKEN TO THE PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL FOR ADULT LEARNERS WEEK 2000, HIGHLIGHTING REAL LEARNERS AND THEIR INSPIRATIONAL STORIES OF ADULT LEARNING. BY HIGHLIGHTING TRUE STORIES OF ADULT LEARNING, WE AIM TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO CELEBRATE THEIR OWN LEARNING ACHIEVEMENTS. FOUR PEOPLE WERE CHOSEN AS THE 'FACES' OF ADULT LEARNERS WEEK:

MARJORIE HYSTEK

These days, Marjorie is a professional photographer who specialises in photographing musicians.

But at not quite 40 years old she was at the end of one career as a full-time mother and felt it was time to do something else. Having left school young she had first to complete her school certificate.

Marjorie says, "I went to see the school principal and said, 'but I'll be 40 by the time I finish'. He said, 'you'll be 40 anyway, so go for it!'"

That was the beginning of a learning curve for Marjorie that encompassed returning to her roots as a musician, learning violin from the great Japanese teacher Shinichi Suzuki, playing with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and taking a course to learn how to use her camera properly.

That introductory photography course has taken her life in a completely different direction, and given her a fulfilling second career. Marjorie now exhibits her photographs and has won prizes in Australia and overseas.

KATHLEEN YANG

Kathleen Yang says, "society is a university from which we never graduate. You never stop learning".

Kathleen was born in China and trained as a nurse there before immigrating to Australia when she was 40. "I loved nursing, and wanted to be a nurse here, too", she says.

She needed to overcome two big hurdles – one was learning English and the other was qualifying in nursing to Australian standards. After studying English for a year she went on to complete a nursing degree, graduating aged 43 to become a rehabilitation sister.

She is proud of her tertiary education. "In China, nursing is at college level. Now my daughter says, 'You've got a university degree, Mum – in Australia!"

PETER FINEGAN

Peter Finegan says he didn't really take to schooling, so when he was young, he bailed out.

He began his working career as a crane-driver and a rigger on building sites in Queensland, before he and his colleagues lost their jobs during the Bjelke-Petersen era.

When he was unemployed a training company came to him, looking for Aboriginal people who wanted to learn about Aboriginal art and craft.

"They said, you've got to do this. After 12 months learning about all different kinds of Aboriginal art mediums I ended up becoming a trainer."

Peter now teaches indigenous people in communities all over Australia, helping them to develop a sense of their own culture. "I teach them and they teach me," he says. "My calling has been my culture."

ROZALIA LUCZO

Rozalia Luczo's work-based learning led her to be awarded Victoria's Outstanding Adult Learner of the year for 1999.

She began work in 1989 at the Ford Motor Company as a way of supporting her husband's income. Since then she has become OH&S representative for the plant, followed by Environmental Representative and Chemical Coordinator.

She is now doing the Vehicle Industry Certificate with Ford, and has completed 20 units in just 15 months.

Adult Learning Australia would like to thank all four of our 'faces' for their generous support of Adult Learners Week.

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Promotion of Adult Learners Week

Four posters featuring each of our 'faces' were produced. Their images were also used on other promotional material including an information brochure, award nomination forms, bookmarks, and competition postcards. Kits containing promotional material, awards information and a letter inviting organisations to become involved were distributed to more than 5,000 organisations Australia-wide.

TELEVISION

Three separate community service announcements were produced for television using Marjorie, Kathleen and Peter. Television stations in every state and territory of Australia broadcast the advertisements before and during Adult Learners Week. Adult Learning Australia would like to acknowledge the assistance of Green Advertising for the production of the announcements.

RADIO

A radio announcement featuring Marjorie Hystek was produced in conjunction with the television announcements. The announcement was distributed throughout Australia and broadcast by several stations.

Radio 2CN in Canberra interviewed Shane Gould and Tony Brown on the morning of the Adult Learners Week national launch, while Radio National broadcast an interview with Bob Fryer on Friday 8 September.

Radio 5UV Adelaide produced a one-hour program about adult learning, which was broadcast live on the internet on 8 September. The program is available for download as three 20 minute segments from http://adelaide.edu.au/5uv/ALW.

NEWSPAPERS

A comprehensive media kit was distributed to a range of print media organisations in the month before Adult Learners Week. Over 200 articles about ALW appeared in local, regional and metropolitan newspapers around the country.

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'Agenda for the Future: Lifelong Learning in Australia'

OVER 90 PEOPLE GATHERED AT THE RADISSON PLAYFORD HOTEL ADELAIDE ON 8 & 9 SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS THE DIRECTION OF LIFELONG LEARNING IN AUSTRALIA. THE CONFERENCE WAS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE LIFELONG LEARNING SEMINAR HELD AS PART OF ALW 99, WHICH FORMED A BASIS FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ABOUT LIFELONG LEARNING POLICIES.

Four keynote speakers provided stimulating insights into the development of learning cultures – Colin Power, formerly Deputy Director-General of Education at UNESCO, the two international guests of Adult Learners Week Stephanie Young and Bob Fryer, and Denis Ralph of Flinders University.

In addition, workshops and papers were presented around issues such as strategies for developing a learning culture, learning and social action, learning and notions of culture, learning and the digital age, VET and older workers and VET and the changing nature of work. Presenters encompassed representatives from a wide range of organisations, including universities, government departments and research units, city councils and the ABC.

Also tackled was the issue of the threat to funding for the UNESCO Institute of Education (UIE). It was agreed to lobby UNESCO and the German government for continued funding of the Institute. For updates and discussion resulting from the conference, visit the ALW website http://alw.ala.asn.au. Conference proceedings will be published and available from Adult Learning Australia.

Adult Learning Australia would like to thank the speakers, presenters and conference participants for their high quality contributions to the discussion of lifelong learning in this country. We would also like to thank the South Australian Department of Education, Training & Employment, particularly Elayne Neill and Sue Ross for their assistance with the conference arrangements.

Radio 5UV and adult learning

Radio 5UV, with support from Adult Learning Australia, produced a special one hour program about adult learning as part of Adult Learners Week. Featuring a mix of pre-recorded segments and live panel discussion, the program was broadcast live on the internet. Panellists included Tony Brown and Dorothy Lucardie of Adult Learning Australia, Denis Ralph of the Centre for Lifelong Learning at Flinders University, international ALW guest Bob Fryer and Rosemary Neal of Community and Neighbourhood Houses South Australia. The program is available for download from the 5UV website at http://adelaide.edu.au/5uv/ALW.

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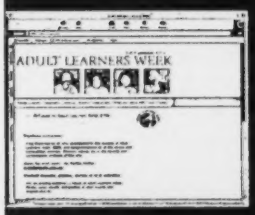
Surfing Online for Seniors

INTERNET USAGE BY OLDER PEOPLE IS GROWING AT AN ASTOUNDING RATE. THE SUCCESS OF THE INAUGURAL SENIORS ONLINE DAY IN 1999 HAS LED TO AN INCREASING NUMBER OF LEARNING PROVIDERS OFFERING INTERNET TUTORING FOR THE OVER 50S. ALW 2000 AGAIN SAW MANY LEARNING PROVIDERS ORGANISING EVENTS AROUND THIS DAY.

In the weeks leading up to ALW 2000, a resource page was created for organisations holding events for Seniors Online Day on 5 September. The page provided links to several new websites aimed specifically at older people with reviews of each site, plus information on how to make use of online resources and where to go to learn more. To learn more, visit http://alw.ala.asn.au/seniors_surf.html.

Adult Learners Week online



HTTP://ALW.ALA.ASN.AU

The Adult Learners Week website was overhauled in April in preparation for ALW 2000. A range of new features was added, making the site more comprehensive than ever. Information added for 2000 included:

- A forum for ALW participants to share ideas, tips and suggestions for ALW activities
- Information about the friends of ALW
- Provision for conference delegates to register online and view the conference program
- The stories behind the 'faces' of Adult Learners Week

Updates will continue to be posted to the site, particularly as planning for ALW 2001 progresses.

Learning Works

THE WORKPLACE IS INCREASINGLY ACKNOWLEDGED AS A SOURCE OF CONTINUING LEARNING WITH HIGHLY EDUCATED, MULTI-SKILLED, CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS THE KEY TO COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE.

Adult Learners Week encouraged organisations and individuals to consider focusing on the mutual benefit of learning at work during ALW by arranging activities to encourage people to take up and value learning. Suggested activities included organising taster sessions during lunch breaks, organising role swaps and forging partnerships by offering training opportunities to smaller organisations.

The Australian Institute of Training & Development (AITD) organised several events to promote learning at work, and both AITD and the Australian Human Resources Institute (AHRI) made an important contribution by publicising Learning Works Day (6 September) through their journals.

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Adult Learners Week 2000 awards

AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF ALW IS THE AWARDS PROGRAM HELD EACH YEAR. THE AWARDS REPRESENT AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNISE THE DIVERSE FORMS OF LEARNING, THE MANY SETTINGS IN WHICH LEARNING TAKES PLACE AND THE VARIED PROVIDERS OF LEARNING.

Separate national and state awards were held for the first time in 2000. The winners of the two national awards for Community Learning Leader and Reconciliation Learning Program were announced at the 'Agenda for the Future' conference dinner in Adelaide on 9 September.

COMMUNITY LEARNING LEADER

The **City of Wodonga** was named as the Community Learning Leader for its Learning City development.

Wodonga was proclaimed as Australia's first Learning City in November 1998. Since then the learning city program has established a cross border (Albury/Wodonga) Learning City Coordination Committee, developed a charter of learning, initiated year long operational plans, and a Wodonga schools network has been established, bringing togetner government and non-government schools. A month long Festival of Learning encourages awareness of and celebrates learning in all its forms.

The Learning City development in Wodonga has inspired other cities and towns to look at becoming a Learning Community, proving itself to be a very worthy winner of the first National Adult Learners Week Community Learning Leader award.

The award was presented by Bob Fryer, one of the international guests of Adult Learners Week, and accepted by the Mayor of Wodonga Councillor Graham Crapp.

RECONCILIATION LEARNING PROGRAM

Australians for Reconciliation (ACT) Inc was recognised as an outstanding program designed to promote reconciliation and learning among non-indigenous and indigenous Australians.

From its inception Australians for Reconciliation ACT (AFRA) has continued a process of encouraging the growth of a People's Movement for reconciliation in the ACT and surrounding region. AFRA grew out of non-indigenous and indigenous people getting together and walking step-by-step to reconciliation. The process of reconciliation is based upon an appreciation of indigenous cultures and achievements and their unique position as the traditional owners and caretakers of the land across Australia.

AFRA has demonstrated extensive commitment to the involvement of the local Indigenous people, the Ngun(n)awal people, and others who live and work in the ACT and surrounding area. The process followed was very simple, allowing learning to develop into actions and proved highly effective in achieving the aims of reconciliation.

AFRA are to be commended for their innovation, commitment, inclusiveness and cooperation across the community.

The award was presented by Yvonne Agius, an elder of the Kaurna people, to Flora MacDonald, Secretary of AFRA.

Details of state and territory award winners are listed in the state/territory sections of this report.

Left to right: Bob Fryer, Flora MacDonald (Australians for Reconciliation ACT), Yvonne Agius, Jim Saleeba and Graham Crapp (Wodonga City Council).

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Ricoh Australia Photo Competition

HOW DO YOU SEE ADULT LEARNING?

We asked people to express their vision of adult learning photographically, based on the theme 'Learning for Life'. From the entries it was clear that learning has different meanings for different people and can and does take place in a range of settings. Two winners were chosen – one by popular online vote and one by a panel of experts. The prizes were two digital cameras, generously supplied by Ricoh Australia.

Shayne McLean

Saint Helens Online Access Centre

Collins Booksellers Writing Competition

DO YOU KNOW, OR CAN YOU CREATE, AN INSPIRATIONAL STORY OF ADULT LEARNING?

We challenged people to tell us an inspirational story of adult learning in 1500 words or less. The story could be about adapting to a major life change, the trials and tribulations of returning to study as an adult, a change of career direction... biographical or fictionalised, the main requirement was that the story illustrate the topic 'Learning for Life'. A judging panel selected two winners, with each receiving a $500 Collins Booksellers voucher. The winners of the competition were Jancintha Coldillac for her story entitled *Learning for Life* and Mary MacMillan for her story entitled *One Tuesday Morning*. To see the full stories visit our website at http://alw.ala.asn.au/competitions.html.

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Friends of Adult Learners Week

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People are in many ways leading the way towards a community culture of lifelong learning.

The majority of Indigenous students in post school education and training are adult learners. Many are catching up on education and training opportunities not accessible to them in the past, and progress through basic enabling courses and on to courses at the certificate, diploma and degree level.

I strongly encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who want to develop their knowledge and skills to participate in the opportunities which may be available to them through adult learning.

Chris Bath

[illegible]

Just when you thought you knew everything... adult learning is an invigorating reality check that can lift you out of the daily grind and activate brain cells you never thought you had. At worst it's intimidating and confronting because you suddenly discover you don't know everything. At best it turns that embarrassment into a passion to know more and can even restore that *joie de vivre*, so often rubbed out by the routines into which we slip.

In 1996 I briefly studied Italian on weekends through Sydney University's adult education program. I'd been talking about doing it for years. It was one of those things I'd always put off because work was a convenient excuse. This course inspired me to enrol in undergraduate Italian in 1997 through the Uni's 'Access to Education' office. It's one of the best things I've ever done! It wasn't easy though. You never fully realise how much adult hubris you harbour until you walk into a room of people at least ten years your junior showcasing IQ's that must've been handed out to newborns post 1970. Try reading out your first tentative attempts at verb conjugation before said disciples of Mensa Youth, seemingly beamed down from the planet Napoli to masquerade as beginners. They fly through the maze of "i verbi d'Italia" with apparent ease but once you've stammered out your answer, try stopping that creeping red flush (they think it's menopause, you know better) as you stuff it up completely. It's as if because you're an adult, you feel you should or simply must get it right. It's when you're over this hurdle, swallow your pride and realise you wouldn't be there learning if adulthood meant an instant passport to a Nobel Prize, that you begin to celebrate the fact that your brain is once again engaged!

My ambition now is to speak perfect Italian – this may require an exponential increase in my life expectancy. Learning Italian as an adult has been undoubtedly a humbling and at times totally embarrassing experience but it has broadened my horizons, made me better informed and will certainly continue to improve my professional capabilities.

(Oh and I think I left out the kudos that comes with enhanced Italian menu reading capabilities!)

ROSEMARY STANTON (NUTRITIONIST AND AUTHOR)

I hope that I will learn something – however small – every day of my life. There is so much to learn and so little time to learn it all. Why would you even stop learning – it makes every day worthwhile.

In my professional life, there are vast amounts to learn in an ever-evolving science. The internet has made much of my professional learning easier from my home office. My knowledge base continues to grow as I continue to keep up with the latest research. I do not find that my ability to learn has diminished with age, although I am only 56 and so have 30 or 40 years of learning left.

I am also learning constantly how important every person is and my grandchildren have contributed enormously to my growth – they are still small but teach you to look at the smallest details of life with wonderment.

[In 2000] I would like to learn to say 'no' more effectively so that I don't work 16 hours a day! On a serious note, I want to learn more about Australian native plants and more about landscaping.

Rosemary Stanton

Shane Gould

SHANE GOULD

Adult learning keeps the brain exercised. What you learn makes you interesting, helps keep you in control of your life because you have independence in thinking and ideas and opinions. It keeps you current, living here in the present.

What learning has been of value to you?

Thinking skills, computer & IT practical skills, Master swimming fitness, natural horsemanship, self understanding, Sports Science, Internet marketing.

What would you like to learn in 2000?

[How] to use a digital video camera and editing skills, colour coordination for house decorating and painting, learning about WA coastal and exotic plants that can survive on the coast.

International Adult Learners Week

In 2000, the first International Adult Learners Week was held, following a resolution by UNESCO.

INTERNATIONAL ADULT LEARNERS WEEK WAS CELEBRATED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 2000, FOLLOWING A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO DURING ITS 30TH SESSION IN NOVEMBER 1999. THE INTERNATIONAL LAUNCH TOOK PLACE ON 8 SEPTEMBER AT THE WORLD EXPO 2000 IN HANNOVER DURING 'BUILDING LEARNING SOCIETIES – KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT', A 3 DAY INTERNATIONAL DEBATE ON THE GROWING ROLE OF LEARNING, INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION.

Prior to the launch, an international email forum was established on the Australian Adult Learners Week website to facilitate communication between national coordinators and others involved in Adult Learners Week in their countries. Members of the forum from several countries collaborated to produce 'The Learning Festivals Guide', a communication tool designed to assist with organising Learning Festivals and Weeks. The guide was produced in support of the international launch of Adult Learners Week.

The following countries have held Adult Learners Weeks in previous years and in 2000, the year of the first International Adult Learners Week: Austria, Benin, Botswana, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Flanders, Germany, Guinea Conakry, Hong Kong, Hungary, Jamaica, Japan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Palestine, the Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

Adult Learners Weeks were held in 2000 for the first time in: Bosnia, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Madagascar, Mali, the Netherlands, Niger, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Swaziland and Zambia.

ACT

THE ALW AWARDS DINNER WAS HELD ON SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER. OVER 100 REPRESENTATIVES OF ACT ACE ORGANISATIONS ATTENDED AND THE ACT ALW AWARDS WERE ANNOUNCED AND PRESENTED BY ACT MINISTER FOR EDUCATION BILL STEFANIAK. THE AWARDS DINNER HAS NOW BECOME A FEATURE OF THE ACT ACE CALENDAR. THE AWARDS DINNER WAS SPONSORED BY THE CANBERRA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY.

Award winners

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: LOLA KROGH

Lola successfully fulfils a number of roles: student, teacher, mentor, wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Her role as a student however has gathered considerable momentum in recent years. In fact she has delayed much of her formal and professional learning until mature age.

For many years she has been involved in community development, particularly supporting disadvantaged youth including as a foster parent and a voluntary worker.

During the past six years she has embarked on a new career as a teacher at the Canberra Institute of Technology. At the same time she continues to provide support to disadvantaged youth, with the added role of supporting students.

After studying Social Welfare she completed a Bachelor of Adult Education and a Graduate Certificate in Adult Education, and still intends to study further. Her studies in adult education have been used to encourage and assist other learners, particularly those who are struggling, by using modern and innovative approaches.

OUTSTANDING TUTOR: ELIZABETH HALFNIGHTS

The progression from student to teacher is often a natural one for people deeply committed to a particular area of learning. For Elizabeth Halfnights, this has been a progression over 20 years.

Through the medium of Tai Chi she has assisted many learners to make a genuine improvement in their lives. This extends to learning about health, self-learning and relaxation. People of all ages, backgrounds and abilities are engaged and enthused, while friendships and community networks are encouraged.

ACT Award Winners with Minister for Education, Bill Stefaniak.
Left to Right: Lola Krogh (Outstanding Learner), Bill Stefaniak (Minister for Education), Anthony Rochester - Marymead (Outstanding Program), SupportLink (Highly Commended Program), Elizabeth Halfnights (Outstanding Tutor).

Elizabeth's commitment to helping others learn extends to many voluntary activities, participating in community events and making a real difference to people's lives, such as through helping people with arthritis, muscular joint problems and other disabilities to enjoy greater physical freedom and reduction in pain.

Elizabeth's vision extends to introducing new courses to improve the quality of life for adult learners and seeking out the resources to conduct those courses.

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: MARYMEAD'S FATHERING AFTER SEPARATION

Separated families are a regrettably common phenomenon of modern life. Continuing to be an effective and caring parent can be an enormous challenge for fathers after separation from their children.

This outstanding program tackles this issue by meeting the learning needs of separated fathers in innovative and highly effective ways. It is a program informed by broad research and depth of experience that covers both the intellectual and emotional needs of separated fathers. It also recognises the needs of all family members. The supportive learning environment is conducive to changing attitudes and beliefs.

The program builds community links for fathers and assists with transport, meals and childcare. It also delivers practical self-help skills. It is an important program that focuses on positive solutions to provide participants with new skills to build better lives.

HIGHLY COMMENDED PROGRAM: SUPPORTLINK

SupportLINK is a program of Tuggeranong Community Service that provides a wide range of services to support families, including groups for men and women.

The Council commends SupportLINK for effectiveness in integrating services and a commitment to providing programs that address local community needs.

The great debate

On Tuesday 5 September a light-hearted debate was held in the reception room of the ACT Legislative Assembly. The event was free and open to the public. The topic was Young with Grunt versus the Old and Bold: who wins the Learning Olympics? Debaters included the Minister for Education, Bill Stefaniak; ACT ACE Advisory Council member Bill Palmer, ACT Young debater of the year Emily Byrne, Canberra Times journalist Norma Allen, award-winning Rostrum debater Andrew Dickson and local comedian Bar Kratz (and her ventriloquist doll Dottie). Local ABC radio breakfast presenter David Kilby chaired the debate.

The Act and Region Migrant Resource Centre, Belconnen Community Service and Tuggeranong Community Arts Association and Tuggeranong Link of Community Houses provided displays at the debate and awards dinner.

National Library of Australia

What do bushrangers and prime ministers have in common? There are 49 people who know! Two sessions were held at the National Library during ALW to help them find out. Three Library staff introduced the groups to the research and information services available on the computers in the reading rooms, concentrating on the Library's catalogue and the databases and indexes available. Bushrangers and prime ministers, with the added assistance of nurses, were used as examples in online demonstration of searching for books, journals and journal articles.

The groups were then taken on a tour of the newspaper/microform reading room, introducing them to the treasures of newspapers and family history research. The sessions were concluded with people being guided in a "hands-on" experience on the computers in the main reading room.

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NSW *New South Wales*

THE NEW SOUTH WALES STATE LAUNCH AND AWARDS CEREMONY WAS HELD ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2000 AT THE HISTORIC CITY HALL IN NEWCASTLE. THIS WAS THE FIRST YEAR THAT THE NSW ALW LAUNCH AND AWARDS CEREMONY HAD BEEN HELD IN A REGIONAL SETTING AND IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS.

Over 100 people attended, representing adult and community education providers, regional councils of adult and community education, the Department of Education and Training, Adult Learning Australia, ALW award sponsors, TAFE, universities and other community groups and organisations.

Special guests were Uncle Bob Smith, an Aboriginal elder of the local Awabakal people, who welcomed everyone to his traditional land, the Lord Mayor of Newcastle Cr John Tate and Lady Mayoress of Newcastle Cathy Tate and the Chair of the NSW Board of Adult and Community Education, Ms Kaye Schofield. Dr Ken Boston, Director-General of Education and Training and Managing Director of TAFE NSW and Ms Sam Thomas, Director of Adult and Community Education and Education Access officiated.

Dr Ken Boston presenting Paul Fsadni with the Outstanding Learner award.

Award Winners

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: PAUL FSADNI (BLACKTOWN DISTRICT COMMUNITY COLLEGE)

Paul is an 18 year old who left home and school early with few prospects. He has now turned his life around, moved back into the family home, and is now looking forward to pursuing a career. Paul has completed Certificate 1 and 2 in General Education for Adults and has now commenced Certificate IV in Information Technology.

MERIT CERTIFICATE, OUTSTANDING LEARNER CATEGORY: LESLIE FOSTER (WEA HUNTER)

Leslie has been attending a literacy course for deaf people for the last eighteen months. Leslie has a range of disabilities, health problems and personal hardships but in spite of all these barriers to learning, he has been determined to maintain the highest standard of work possible and even does extra homework to improve his skills.

OUTSTANDING TUTOR: GLENN WOOF
(Award sponsored by the University of Technology, Sydney)

Glenn has shown exceptional commitment to teaching Computer Programs at Strathfield Community College for over 10 years. Her previous career had been as a nurse educator. Glenn decided to update her skills in computing and within two years she was teaching the subject. Glenn is an innovative and adaptable tutor who along with a colleague founded the Computer and English for VET in 1997. She has taught people from 8 – 88 from a variety of Non English Speaking Backgrounds. Currently Glenn is tutoring 'Basic Computing for Over 55's' focusing on the needs of senior citizens to update or learn new technologies and the Internet.

MERIT CERTIFICATE, OUTSTANDING TUTOR CATEGORY: HAZEL SIMS

Hazel is 88 years old, and after being a tutor at the Dee Why School for Seniors for 22 years, has only just retired due to ill heath. At the school she taught handicrafts to the seniors with enthusiasm, patience, talent and dedication.

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: MACQUARIE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISABILITY PROGRAM
(award sponsored by the Australian Institute of Training and Development)

This program comprises many diverse courses, which look at improving skills of developmentally disabled students in a range of areas, for example, recreation, communication, social skills and literacy and numeracy. The Program enables students to integrate into the local and broader community. In the 1999-2000 year there has been more than 1700 enrolments in 40 courses at 13 different venues. The success of this Program has been due to the cooperation between government and non-government agencies and with the help of a group of dedicated staff and supporters.

Macquarie Community College, Outstanding Program. Left to right: Joe Lonsdale, George Papallo and Kay Schofield – Chair of BACE.

OUTSTANDING PROVIDER: ST GEORGE AND SUTHERLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
(award sponsored by the Labor Council of New South Wales)

St George and Sutherland Community College has proven itself to be an innovative and successful provider of quality adult and community education for many years. The college has shown commitment to the recreational and business needs of the community. Program diversity has been one of the college's outstanding features and this has been realised by collaboration with local agencies both private and government and its active involvement in the community.

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OUTSTANDING INDIGENOUS LEARNER: CHRISTINE MCKIERNAN

Christine was homebased caring for her own and other children but she wanted more. In 1998 she applied for employment at Booroongen Djugun College. Although she was over 30, it was her first job and she had no experience or qualifications, she had potential and was successful. As she gained in confidence she undertook studies through distance education. In 1999 she completed Certificate III in Business. She was promoted to Trainee Course Coordinator and completed a Certificate in Community Care Services (Assistant in Nursing). Christine is now Trainee Manager, Quality Management and has completed the Frontline Management Certificate III and IV and is currently enrolled in the Certificate IV in Business (Administration). Her accomplishments have been an inspiration to her fellow workers, family and the local Indigenous community.

Left to right: Glenn Woof, Jan Hatton (ACE Wakha), George Papallo (Macquarie Community College), Hilton Franks, Leslie Foster, Paul Fsadni, Christine McKiernon, Patricia Sims (for Hazel Sims), Patricia Carroll (St George and Sutherland Community College).

RUNNER UP, OUTSTANDING INDIGENOUS LEARNER: HILTON FRANKS

Hilton commenced a Literacy and Numeracy Program at Westlakes Training in 1999. His commitment to attend his classes has seen him juggling medical appointments and overcoming health issues. Vastly improved skills in reading, writing and verbal communications have raised Hilton's self esteem and confidence to face the future. He is very proud that he can now help his children with their homework and is a positive role model who encourages other students to pursue their learning.

OUTSTANDING PROVIDER OF PROGRAMS FOR INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS: ACE WALCHA

ACE Walcha services an isolated rural community in the New England area. It has developed strong links with the Local Land Councils over a four year period and activity encourages involvement and representation from the local Aboriginal community. ACE Walcha is in partnership with the Amaroo and Foster Aboriginal Land Councils and offers literacy programs and Certificate II in Koori Education. It is also taking part in the Regional Pilot Flexible Delivery of the Certificate in General Education for Adults to Aboriginal students and enrolling students in mainstream accredited training, literacy and personal lifestyle courses. ACE Walcha has formed excellent relationships with local Indigenous organisations that have strengthened the bond between ACE and the Indigenous people of Walcha.

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Statewide Adult Learners Week Events

WELL OVER 100 DIVERSE AND INNOVATIVE ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS WERE ORGANISED THROUGHOUT METROPOLITAN AND RURAL NSW. HERE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES:

METROPOLITAN REGION

St George and Sutherland Community College really got into the swing of ALW holding several major events. There was a careers night for high school students and parents with over 1000 participants, a two day exhibition where tutors' and students' work was displayed, together with demonstrations of belly dancing, tai chi, reiki, aromatherapy and massage, computer, first aid, amongst others. They also joined in the fun of the Cronulla Spring Festival with a stall promoting ALW and their college, a display of courses available and demonstrations. They also held a very successful awards night with over 80 people attending.

Sydney Community College awarded outstanding students and tutors with an evening featuring the presentation of college awards, speeches and performances of African drumming, *a cappella*, capoeira and flamenco dancing.

HUNTER REGION

Barrington ACE enjoyed a very successful ALW with a total of 56 adult learners participating in information technology-related courses specifically aimed at seniors. Free courses on the Internet, computer know how and desktop publishing were held at the Technology and Learning Centre in Dungog. The residents of Dungog and District Retirement Living Home also had the opportunity to join in the fun. None of the residents had any knowledge of new technology. Step one was to show them how to play cards on the computer. The following day the Barrington tutor returned to show the residents the Internet Road Show. They visited the Seniors Online site and then investigated further sites looking at coins, cattle, stock whips and genealogy.

Scenes from the Sydney Community College Awards Night.

CENTRAL COAST REGION

Wyong ACE ran two distinct promotions for ALW. Four free workshops on the Internet were organised for any interested members of the community. One of the aims of the promotion was to ask the students what they wanted to be taught. The feedback was very positive and has resulted in some changes to the computer program for next term. The second promotion was a series of very successful arts and crafts workshops that had been requested by several community-based organisations.

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CENTRAL WEST REGION

The ALW International guest speaker Professor Stephanie Young, Director of Lifelong Learning at Scottish Enterprise Glasgow, was invited by Central West Community College and the Regional Council of ACE to speak at a seminar held in Orange. The audience consisted of approximately 35 people representing business, educational and community organisations. At the seminar Stephanie explained how Glasgow has been developed as a 'Learning City' and the effort that was being made to overcome barriers and promote lifelong learning and the introduction of online learning.

FAR WEST REGION

Throughout the Far West of NSW from Broken Hill to the smallest most remote towns ALW was celebrated and promoted. ALW was launched at the Robinson Centre in Broken Hill with a very successful luncheon attended by the Mayor, Peter Black MP, representatives from schools, ACE, private providers, business and other community organisations. The towns of Menindee, Wilcannia, Ivanhoe, White Cliffs and Tibooburra invited their communities to sausage sizzles and mainstreet events with information stands and displays of students work. The local newspaper printed five adult learners' case studies giving examples of the diversity of courses available to adult learners and the range of educational facilities, such as local ACE centres, TAFE, private providers and university (distance education), where they can be studied.

NEW ENGLAND AND NORTH WEST REGION

Guyra Adult Learning Association (GALA) ran the first 18 hour 'Bushnet' course for 11 participants during ALW. This is a course funded from a networking grant to ensure remote rural business (farm and town) have the skills necessary to use internet technology and create a web page for their business or community. The Bushnet Project is a joint ACE / TAFE course and will be run throughout the north and north west region of NSW. The Guyra community was also invited to enter designs for a new logo for GALA. They had some interesting entries and the winning prize was a free course of their choice. The students in the folk art class also took on the challenge of making a GALA banner to be displayed in the shopfront during all future ALW's and for other special occasions.

Bankstown Community College held several events for ALW. Pictured is tutor Bing Wu at a drawing demonstration with a student. Bing is noted for teaching 'pastels with a passion!'

Tamworth Adult Education Centre ran 7 sessions of computer courses: two for 'Seniors Online', two for 'Learners Online' and three for 'Computers Don't Bite'. These sessions certainly caught the interest of many in the community with some attending one course from each group. The Tamworth launch of ALW was held at the City Library with the Acting Mayor.

A new gallery was opened recently in the centre of Tenterfield. ACE Tenterfield were able to take the opportunity to use this site to display students work with the main focus on pottery, photography and drawing but also covering many other courses such as fashion, computing, mosaics, crochet, writing, spinning and dyeing.

NORTH COAST REGION

ACE Murwillumbah conducted a telephone survey of fifty mid-life and older computer users who had previously attended their 'Computers for Seniors' course. The survey was conducted to find out how these seniors felt about the computer course, new technologies, and how computers might affect their lives in the future. All fifty people contacted were very keen to participate. The survey has now been published and will be given to all seniors enrolling in future computer courses at ACE Murwillumbah. The publication has also been distributed to government departments, local councils and local education organisations.

Alstonville Adult Learning Association held a display at the local shopping plaza with art and craft demonstrations. They also provided CPR demonstrations and Introduction to Computer courses, including Introduction to Computer Specifically for People with a Disability. This session proved to be very successful and will now be run as a regular session.

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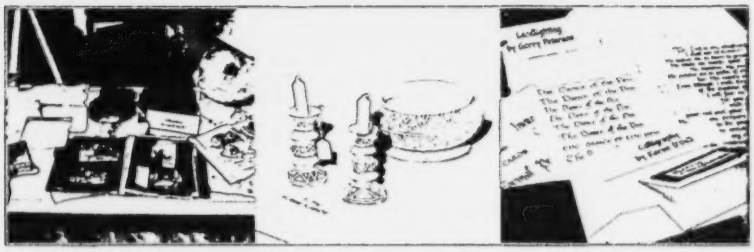

Some of the displays held by the Monaro Continuing Education Group

SOUTH EAST REGION

Southern Region Community College in Goulburn had a great exhibition of work by their tutors including candlewicking, leatherwork, floral art, leadlighting, feltmaking, drawing and painting, garden pottery, photography, computing, bike maintenance etc. They held an open day, gave awards to Student, Tutor, and new Tutor of the Year, and ran a suggestion box for all of September with the winning suggestion attracting a prize of $200 for course fees.

The Monaro Continuing Education Group in Cooma celebrated ALW with a new workshop, Creative Writing, with a new tutor, Sarah St Vincent Welch, from the ACT Writers Group in Canberra. Sarah helped the students tap into their creativity and stimulate their imagination. The result was a day of great fun, socialising and sharing, as well as the writing of prose and poetry.

Eurobodalla Adult Education Centre announced the news of the Centre receiving the ACE endorsed Quality awards. Members of the Centre pictured.

ORANA REGION

On Thursday the Western College of Adult Education in Dubbo had a static display at the Orana Mall showing patchwork, floral art, calligraphy, computers, picture framing and literacy items with tutors, students and staff available to assist with enquires. Shoulder massages were also available to willing participants while they looked at the displays. International Literacy Day was celebrated with a party attended by literacy students (ESL, HELP program, disabled students), teachers, office staff and members of the Regional Council of ACE. Festivities at the party included a quiz, and the launch of a booklet '*Putting Pen to Paper*' using students' work.

RIVERINA REGION

Griffith Adult Learning Association hosted a Wine Trivia Night in partnership with the small local wineries. The winemakers of the Riverina assisted by writing the questions and providing discount wine. The venue provided the cuisine of Italian food for the evening. Combining the wine industry, migrant heritage and education provided a perfect setting to promote this year's ALW themes of learning communities, learning works and lifelong learning. The event was a huge success with a great response of around 130 participants.

ALW in Balranald carried with it the 'Olympic theme' in the form of a mini Olympics held in the RSL auditorium, beginning with a presentation from two participants of the Olympic torch relay. A round robin of games such as Quoits, Skittles, Darts, Pictionary and Sale of the Century were then hotly contested with all winners receiving a medal. Also celebrating ALW was the quilters group who staged a wonderful exhibition of their work. The whole week culminated with the official opening of the new premises.

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NT

Award Winners

THE ADULT LEARNERS WEEK AWARDS WERE PRESENTED AT THE NT VOCATIONAL TRAINING AWARDS AT THE MGM GRAND DARWIN HOTEL AND CASINO. THE FIRST TIME IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY THAT THE AWARDS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED AT SUCH A GALA EVENT.

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: WILCO VAN SYL

Wilco was the first participant of the new Power & Water Authority (PAWA) Diploma Level FMI program, and has applied his learning to the workplace extensively. He is a strong participant in the organisation, having moved from a physical grade position to a managing role. To achieve this he has had to make a considerable change in both his style of working and of learning. He is an excellent role model.

OUTSTANDING TUTOR: PETER MARTIN

Peter is one of the most popular tutors at Darwin TRAC Association. He is passionate about training after having 'misspent his own youth' and his passion for the subject rubs off onto all of his students. He has assisted students at risk, and he also teaches computer skills to adults in night classes.

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: COMMUNITY RANGER TRAINING PROGRAM, FACULTY OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDIES. NORTHERN TERRITORY UNIVERSITY

This program is an innovative use of TAFE Training to assist in the capacity building and development of independent economic activity in the Maningrida community, particularly with the Djelk Community Land Management Rangers, a group of 15 Indigenous Australians working on a Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) in land management. A strong sign of the success of this course and the community capacity building was the inaugural Bininj/Yolngu Ranger Conference organised by the rangers in July 1999.

OUTSTANDING PROVIDER: INDIGENOUS EDUCATION BRANCH, NT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

The Indigenous Education Branch of the Northern Territory Department of Education takes great pride in improving the education of all Australians through programs such as:

- Aboriginal and Islander Tertiary Aspirations Program (AITAP) for high school students
- Mentor program for Indigenous teachers
- Aboriginal and Islander Education Worker (AIEW) in school programs

The Indigenous Education Branch administrates programs specifically targeting the improvement in indigenous involvement and participation in, access to, and outcomes from education.

From left: Outstanding Tutor, Peter Martin and Julie Turner collecting on behalf of the Department of Education for Outstanding Provider, presented by Wal Czernezkyj CEO of NTETA.

35

Other activities

ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION FOCUS GROUP WORKSHOPS WERE HELD IN DARWIN, JABIRU, KATHERINE, TENNANT CREEK, ALICE SPRINGS AND NHULUNBUY THROUGHOUT ADULT LEARNERS WEEK.

SEVERAL ACTIVITIES WERE HELD AROUND THE REGIONS OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY:

The Katherine Training Centre organised an open day, with a mini expo. Activities ranged from fabric painting, fitness classes, judo classes and a morning tea to announce the week and to welcome the participants and the stallholders.

The Jabiru Training Centre conducted a look and learn session. Attendees had the opportunity to view online and access the latest in reading and other resources on distant and other modes of study. The session coincided with the Careers Expo and was followed by a BBQ at the lake.

The Nhulunbuy Training Centre organised an information and display evening, followed by a BBQ.

The Tennant Creek Training Centre organised an open day with morning tea and a sausage sizzle for lunch. Activities included mini expo, music, art & craft and a didgeridoo demonstration.

As part of the promotion and in the lead up to ALW, the Northern Territory Employment & Training Authority (NTETA) placed a one page feature in the NT News for five days beginning Sunday 27 August to Thursday 31 August. Topics covered included:

Sunday August 27
Introduction to ALW Territory wide.
ALW activities planned in all regions.

Monday August 28
Health, Safety, Sport and Fitness.

Tuesday August 29
Art and Craft.

Wednesday August 30
Job Skills & Education.

Thursday August 31
Dance, Music and Fashion.

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Award winners

Left to right: Stephanie Young, Michael Whereat collecting on behalf of Emerald Agricultural College for Outstanding Provider and Harry Hauenschild.

THE QUEENSLAND LAUNCH OF ADULT LEARNERS WEEK WAS HELD IN TOOWOOMBA ON 3 SEPTEMBER. THE AWARDS PRESENTATION WAS MADE BY QUEENSLAND COMMISSIONER FOR TRAINING HARRY HAUENSCHILD, WITH AWARD WINNERS ATTENDING FROM ALL OVER THE STATE. ADULT LEARNERS WEEK INTERNATIONAL VISITOR STEPHANIE YOUNG AND MAYOR OF TOOWOOMBA DI THORLEY WERE GUESTS OF THE LAUNCH.

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: MARGARET BARNES

Margaret has been on a steep learning curve for the past five years. She attended an Adult Literacy class to improve her reading comprehension and writing skills five years ago. Since then she has completed her schooling and is now studying psychology and archaeology at the University of the Third Age at Hervey Bay.

OUTSTANDING TUTOR: MARGARET COLE

The founding member of the Gatton Adult Literacy classes, Margaret has dedicated her last ten years to improving the literacy skills of her students. Her commitment to her students extends to providing life skills so they can learn how to read and fill in forms at the medical centre, bank or school.

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: VOLUNTEER TRAINING FOR THE SEASONS FOR GROWTH PROGRAM AT THE PINE RIVERS NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

The Seasons for Growth program supports and empowers children to work through issues surrounding grief and change. In order for the program to take place, adult volunteers need to learn the Seasons for Growth framework so they can create a safe, encouraging and confidential environment for the children. The intensive training course is for ten hours over two days and allows the volunteers to learn more about themselves in the process.

OUTSTANDING PROVIDER: EMERALD AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

The Emerald Agricultural College provides adult and community education to a large regional area within a 500km radius of the Emerald campus. In the past two years they have revitalised their program to better meet the needs of a diverse community instead of one single market – agricultural training. They now offer training in their traditional areas as well as business management and self-development, among others.

OUTSTANDING REMOTE LEARNING COMMUNITY: HISTORICAL WOOLSCOUR ASSOCIATION AT BLACKALL

The Historical Woolscour took up the challenge to meet their community's need to diversify from traditional rural employment and learn new skills. They now have more than 100 adult learners participating in skills development in real-life situations and are a major employer of the community.

State events and activities

MORE THAN 100 EVENTS WERE HELD THROUGHOUT QUEENSLAND TO CELEBRATE ADULT LEARNERS WEEK, A SELECTION OF WHICH ARE LISTED BELOW:

Toowoomba was the first stop of Stephanie Young's visit to Australia. In addition to attending the state launch of ALW she ran a workshop about developing Learning Communities, the first of several seminars about Learning Communities held in Toowoomba throughout the Week. The city has recently announced its intention to becoming Queensland's first Learning City; the events held there as part of Adult Learners Week 2000 provided an important first step in that process.

The **Mackay Regional Council for Social Development and Mackay Central State School** held a series of activities entitled 'Learning for Life Across Cultures'. The sessions were aimed at parents whose first language is not English, and were designed to enhance writing, literacy, numeracy, speaking and computing skills. Parents in the area come from Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Portugal, France and the Philippines.

The **Women's Health Centre in Rockhampton** held an Open Day with internet sessions, a luncheon and demonstrations in craft, tai chi and quilting.

Townsville Migrant Resource Centre organised for 38 English language students to visit the Museum of Tropical Queensland as part of their class. The Townsville Adult Tutor Group held a morning tea and open day to promote the group's services and celebrate the success of their clients.

The **Australian Non-violence Network**, Cairns Node held two workshops, including an 'Introduction to Using Non-violence in Community Organising'.

The **Mount Isa Community Adult Literacy (MICAL) Group** held a display at the Mount Isa City Library and launched the Laptop Learning project, an initiative to provide training on computer use, accessing the internet, using email technology and searching for local material on the computer network.

In **Charters Towers**, the local pottery club held several informal workshops for beginners. Hughenden Information Centre also held several information technology workshops to introduce people to electronic media.

Gatton's Lockyer Information and Neighbourhood Centre held a Multicultural Display and Lunch, giving people the opportunity to learn about different cultures. Participants included people from Nepal, Kenya, New Zealand, France, China, Japan, Somalia, Iran, Afghanistan, England and of course Australia.

The **Cooloola Sunshine Institute of TAFE** held sessions including Digital Photography for Beginners, How to Preserve your Eyesight in the Workplace and Connecting with Your Children.

Laidley Shire Community Care Centre and Laidley Shire Council launched their Week at a shopfront in the Laidley Mall. Activities during the Week included a cardmaking demonstration, a motivational talk for youth, a 'Basic Car Maintenance for Women' workshop and a workshop to help parents and others needing information about children with learning disabilities.

In and around Brisbane activities held included a Multicultural Focus Forum by the Ethnic Communities Council, a Queensland Working Women's Service workshop, photographic displays and demonstrations, and internet sessions.

SA

ADULT LEARNERS WEEK WAS LAUNCHED AT NGAPARTJI MULTIMEDIA, RUNDLE STREET, ADELAIDE ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2000. THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT MARK BRINDAL PRESENTED THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ALW AWARDS DURING THE LAUNCH. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED A FUNDING BOOST OF $300,000 FOR ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION, TO RESULT IN AN EXPECTED INCREASE OF 2500 COURSE PLACES.

Award winners

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: MURRAY CARTWRIGHT

Murray's journey in Adult Community Education began in 1997 when he entered the Eastwood Community Centre after his life had dramatically changed following a severe car accident. A successful businessman before the accident, in 1989 Murray commenced at Eastwood Community Centre struggling to come to terms with his new life. He had an interest in art and particularly figure work.

In 1997 Murray started the Life Art Group at Eastwood and his ambition was to present the best Life Art Group in Adelaide. This group has gone on to mount two exhibitions and Murray is now developing a series of photography workshops for people with acquired brain injuries.

After he had devoured every art class offered by various TAFEs, and the WEA, Murray's confidence had developed enough for him to enrol at the Adelaide Central School of Art.

Murray has been a source of inspiration to others who struggle with disability and a great credit to himself and to us all.

OUTSTANDING TUTOR: PATRICIA MURPHY

Trish began as an educator at Bower Cottages in 1992. She now services the learning needs of three very diverse communities – Camden, Glandore and Christie Downs.

Trish has a wonderful rapport with all of her students. Her work with intellectually disabled clients has been most creative. Many of these students have been isolated from the community. They are mature aged, have never been to school and currently live with aging parents and carers.

Trish works closely with the carers of special needs students to develop programs appropriate to their needs. With the use of Makaton, pictures, videos and appropriate life skills materials these students have gained confidence and literacy skills way beyond expectations.

Trish has been instrumental in the development of systems and procedures that enable the students to access opportunities previous denied to them or resulted in the student being compromised.

While achieving all of the above Trish has continued with her own study and professional development – a living model of learning for life.

There are many examples of Trish's ingenuity, tolerance with challenging clients and patience with demanding staff. It is not unusual for Trish to put the needs of her students way above her own needs. Her commitment is beyond expectation.

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: ABORIGINAL LAND MANAGEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

In Australia the area of land owned or managed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People has expanded as a result of Aboriginal Land Rights legislation. Consultations with Aboriginal community groups demonstrated the large and growing demand for land management training to take a holistic and large definition.

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Areas of recognition (of prior learning) and training include ranger skills, pastoral, agricultural, horticultural, mari-cultural and aqua-cultural, cultural, civil construction and eco-tourism (nature-based) enterprises and skills.

Training is designed to prepare individuals for employment within the private sector. Training, outcomes and assessments of participants for the course are undertaken in the field with none, or minimal classroom instruction. The course integrates both traditional and contemporary aspects of land management.

Over 1000 participants from across Australia are registered for entry into the program. The local delivery and the hands on approach are identified as key success factors from the students' perspective. A number of employers have commented on the commitment and dedication of the students. This is a significant achievement for a region where Aboriginal people face poor employment prospects.

OUTSTANDING PROVIDER: OVERSEAS CHINESE ASSOCIATION

The Overseas Chinese Association offers an outstanding variety of social and education programs for adult learners through their community centre. The programs are innovative, attractive and rewarding to participants as well as being inclusive of learning needs and interests in the Chinese Community.

The Association was established in the 1960's by a group of Indo-Chinese refugees. From a small group of people supporting each other and running a Chinese school for twenty children in a garage, it has grown to be the peak Chinese Community group with an estimated 2000 members. On an average Saturday 800 students will be participating in a diverse range of programs offered by the centre.

The Association employs three full time staff who are supported by approximately 200 volunteers including all the teachers to run the 41 programs offered by the Centre.

A **POSTHUMOUS AWARD** was also presented to the family of Joan Gibbons, who tragically died in a plane crash earlier in the year. The award recognised Joan's outstanding contribution to adult community education through her work at the Whyalla Neighbourhood Centre.

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Elaine Neill of the SA Department of Education, Training and Employment and Gene Wenham, Chairperson of the ACE Council at the launch of the 'ASK about WEALTH' booklet.

Other activities and events

A HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK WAS THE LAUNCH OF THE 'ASK ABOUT WEALTH (WHERE ELSE ADULT LEARNING THRIVES AND HAPPENS)' GUIDE TO ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA ON 30 AUGUST 2000 AT THE JAMFACTORY, ADELAIDE. IT WAS PRODUCED TO MARK SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S PROMOTION OF ADULT LEARNERS WEEK 2000 AND WAS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSES, SUPPORT GROUPS, LIBRARIES AND MANY OTHER COMMUNITY CENTRES. A KEY AIM OF THE BOOKLET IS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF THE CONTRIBUTION TO ACE OF ORGANISATIONS NOT NORMALLY IDENTIFIED AS ACE PROVIDERS.

Gene Wenham, Chair of the ACE Council with Mark Ferguson, Chief Executive of the JamFactory.

An exciting initiative was the development and broadcasting of five mini-programs celebrating adult and lifelong learning. This was a joint project with 5UV Radio Adelaide and the ACE Council. It is envisioned that the initial five programs will build into a CD series based on the 'Federation Files' concept and targeted specifically at adult community education and lifelong learning.

MANY ORGANISATIONS AROUND THE STATE CONDUCTED ACTIVITIES AS PART OF THE WEEK, PARTICULARLY IN COMPUTER SKILLS AND INTERNET TUTORING. THE FOLLOWING ARE JUST SOME EXAMPLES OF THE DIVERSE ACTIVITIES HELD AROUND THE STATE:

The **Whyalla Neighbourhood Centre** ran several activities, including a video presentation on middle east archaeology featuring digs in Egypt, Jordan and Turkey and workshops on such diverse topics as mental health, sheep shearing, telephone operations, internet awareness and basic literacy and numeracy.

Prospect Community Neighbourhood House in Adelaide held an open day with a sausage sizzle and devonshire teas, static displays, music and a series of short workshops.

An open day at **Tauondi College** with college activities, stalls, cultural events and musical performances.

The **Spastic Centres of South Australia Network** held a lunchtime celebration of learning and achievement with a graffiti wall for people to record learning experiences.

WEA South Australia ran a workshop entitled 'Tracing your Welsh ancestors from afar'.

Onkaparinga Institute of TAFE, Mt Barker Campus offered a creative embroidery display and a session of interactive and free face painting.

The **Ingle Farm Recreation Centre** held a Sports Day to celebrate adults learning and participating in new sports, including soccer and volleyball games modified for people with disabilities.

TAS

ADULT LEARNERS WEEK IN TASMANIA WAS LAUNCHED ON 1 SEPTEMBER WITH THE PRESENTATION OF THE ALW AWARDS AT EXETER. EXETER IS A SMALL TOWN ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE TAMAR RIVER, 25 KILOMETRES NORTH OF LAUNCESTON. THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE LOCAL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL, THE LIBRARY, THE SCHOOL FOR SENIORS AND THE ONLINE ACCESS CENTRE WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES, REFLECTING THIS YEAR'S THEME OF LEARNING FOR LIFE.

Minister Paula Wriedt MHA and Dick Adams MHR at the launch of the Adult Learning Tasmania Directory.

A small group of very hard working volunteers organised an excellent function at the Community Centre and the Minister for Education in Tasmania Paula Wriedt presented the ALW awards to a group of very excited and surprised recipients. The Minister also launched the Adult Learning Tasmania directory and website which is a compilation of Tasmanian ACE providers, the result of a project funded by ANTA and managed through the Equity Standards Branch of the Department of Education.

Surfing Online for Seniors Day

A 'Surfing Online for Seniors Day' was held at Adult Education's South Hobart centre in conjunction with SeniorLink Tasmania. Over fifty enthusiastic people attended the two hour session, with many using the internet, email and chatrooms for the first time.

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Award winners

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: TRACIE CHARLESWORTH

Since 1996, Tracie has been involved as both a participant and a volunteer at the Clarendon Vale Neighbourhood Centre, a suburb of Hobart on the eastern shore of the Derwent River.

Her interest in social issues, arising from her experiences at the Centre, inspired her to enrol at the local TAFE in the Diploma of Social Community Services. In order to assist other parents in the community, she has researched information about children with challenging behaviours, including ADHD and Tourette's Syndrome and has published brochures and organised a support group called *Our Special Kids*. Two of Tracie's six children have challenging behaviours.

Her public speaking on these issues and others such as poverty has been recognised both by the community and the media, and videotapes of her talks are used by many community organisations to help parents. In 1999 Tracie participated in volunteering training and received accreditation for her work through the Volunteering Centre of Tasmania.

Minister for Education, Paula Wriedt with Tasmanian award winners.

OUTSTANDING TUTOR: NEIL NESBITT

In his 70's and after a successful career as a perfumer, Neil Nesbitt now acts as a tutor in statewide TAFE Adult Education classes, in Neighbourhood Houses and in day centres for people with disabilities.

He specialises in classes such as aromatherapy, hydroponics, soapmaking and liqueur making. These classes are seen as especially useful as they are affordable and easily translated into home activities. He is very good at adapting classes to the needs of the individual participants, and able to support participants in making their own decisions and in encouraging development of communication skills.

He is very much in demand from a number of organisations that value his skills and commitment to life long learning.

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: ST HELENS NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC- VOLUNTEER OFFICE TRAINING PROGRAM

St Helens is a small seaside town in the north east of Tasmania with a strong community education commitment. St Helens Neighbourhood House has been extremely successful in operating a Volunteer Office Training Program to members of the St Helens community. The course is delivered by trainers on a one-to-one basis and is integrated with community, committees and volunteers working from the St Helens Neighbourhood House network.

OUTSTANDING PROVIDER: (JOINT WINNERS) RECOGNITION SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Recognition Services is a section of the Department of Education with two education officers and a part time administration support officer. It develops competency based accreditation courses, which it then coordinates. It also provides a recognition service for individuals who require recognition for certification. It has been extremely innovative in the programs it has created with

careful commitment to inclusiveness by responding to the needs of its community. It has been successful in collaborative programs with both government and non-government agencies. At this stage 32 teachers have graduated from the program with graduate certificates in their specialist areas.

DISCOVER ONLINE LEARNING UNIT, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Discover Online Learning Unit (which has a staff of three) provides professional development to teachers who are embracing online approaches to teaching and learning. This is done through a supported system of grouping in learning communities where mentors become regional support persons in local networks. The professional development program has three components: online modules, workshops and the mentoring process. Teachers are being inspired and supported by the Discover Online 2000 Professional development program as they seek to engineer real change in their practice.

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Other events and activities

IN THE RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS OF TASMANIA SEVERAL ONLINE ACCESS CENTRES OFFERED A DIVERSE RANGE OF TECHNOLOGY TASTER CLASSES, AND A NUMBER OF COMMUNITY CENTRES RAN A WIDE RANGE OF PROGRAMS OVER THE WEEK. HIGHLIGHTS OF SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES ARE LISTED BELOW:

Burnie residents were offered the opportunity to learn to identify, cut, polish and set rocks and gems by **Burnie District Gemstone Club**, while the **Online Access Centre** offered internet introduction classes.

In **Deloraine** 'A taste of Lifelong Learning' offered a choice of computer sessions, glass painting, writing groups and open house to the community with afternoon tea.

George Town Neighbourhood House held an open day with demonstrations of ceramics, quilling, folk art, bark art, ethnic cooking, glass painting and internet classes.

Hocus Pocus Facepainting offered a face and body painting workshop for women, with training in body painting techniques.

Margate Online Access Centre established a video link-up between Margate Aboriginal Resource Centre and the Pwerte Marnte Marnte Aboriginal Corporation in Alice Springs.

Myalla Community Centre Committee opened their doors for two days, with workshops on herbs and local birds.

In **Penguin**, the History Group held an information afternoon covering video and photo albums, family histories and cemetery records. The Penguin Online Access Centre held an open day with simple computer introduction activities.

St Helens Neighbourhood House Association held an open learning day with displays of mosaics, bush furniture, wooden and wire teddy bears, handstitch teddys, vegetarian dishes, ceramics, soaps, bath salts and bubble bath and a demonstration by the Watercolour Painting Group.

The **School of Finance and Accounting at the University of Tasmania** offered a taste of 'Flexible accounting and finance for adult learners' with mini lectures and tutorials on current business topics and an introduction to the teaching and learning technology.

VIC

Award winners

THE STRONG TRADITION OF CELEBRATING LEARNING IN VICTORIA WAS CONTINUED WITH A HUGE NUMBER OF EVENTS ACROSS THE STATE, INCLUDING LONGER LEARNING FESTIVALS IN SOME AREAS. THE RECENT DECISION BY THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO GRANT FUNDING FOR NINE AREAS TO BECOME LEARNING COMMUNITIES PROVIDED A FOCUS FOR THE STATE THEME OF LEARNING COMMUNITIES.

The state launch of the Week took place on Friday 1 September at the Corinella and District Community Centre in Gippsland. Lynne Kosky, Minister for Post Compulsory Education, Training and Employment officially launched the Week and opened a new extension and information technology centre. Appropriately the occasion also marked the beginning of 10th birthday celebrations of the Centre.

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: DENISE ROYAL

In March 1998 Denise enrolled in the Certificate III in Children's Services at Coiner Community House. The previous year she had spent two days per week at the local pre-school assisting her son, Brent, who has a disability, to gain the benefits of participating in kindergarten with other children of his own age. Denise was in her late thirties when she commenced her course, a mother with four children who had not been to school for over 20 years.

During the two and half years of study to complete her Certificate, Denise has proved herself to be an outstanding student. Her work assignments have been of the highest standards, she always contributes in a positive way in the classroom, and encourages and inspires others to do so. Both the Child Care Centres that she attended for her field placements offered Denise employment.

Denise has successfully combined her studies with the running of a busy family home and commitments to her children's schools and sporting clubs. In addition to the Certificate course, Denise has completed an Integration Aide training course and has ambitions to undertake the Diploma in Children's Services.

Denise has shown commitment and perseverance in pursuing her learning pathway. Her success is a tribute to her ability to combine her studies with an ongoing dedication to her family.

OUTSTANDING TUTOR: LYN ASLING

Lyn Asling consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty for her students/trainees and should be recognised for her work and the positive effect it has on the local Bendigo community. Lyn teaches a variety of accredited courses with her main area of focus being the retail industry.

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Stepping into Lyn's classroom, one is instantly absorbed into Lyn's world of theatre. Having worked in the retail industry for over 40 years, and taking part in many local theatrical productions along the way, Lyn mixes the two areas successfully to make the learning experience fun and, most importantly, memorable.

Lyn opens her students' eyes and minds by performing the dramatics of situations so that the students can learn the processes involved with working in the retail industry, while enjoying themselves at the same time. It is not usually hard to find in which room Lyn's classes are being held – just follow the sound of laughter and Lyn's singing. Lyn loves to sing and makes a point of singing rather loudly when she needs to get the attention of the class.

Lyn's dedication to getting the best out of her students means that those students will take all that they have learnt, their positive attitude about their job and themselves, to their new workplace and share it with others. Lyn's main challenge has been with the long-term unemployed and young unemployed people 15-18 years of age. The determination and effort Lyn puts into making these people job-ready and confident is hard work – then she goes out and helps them get employment!

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: YOUTH PROGRAM UNIT, GEELONG ADULT TRAINING & EDUCATION

The Youth Program Unit at Geelong Adult Training and Education (GATE) is an outstanding example of creative, learner-focused program delivery. This program involves significant collaboration between a range of organisations in the Greater Geelong area on behalf of young people of the area.

The outstanding results in total enrolments and specific, personal outcomes for individual program participants clearly indicates that this program is well focused, extremely well delivered and is providing an important opportunity for young adults with previously unsatisfactory education experiences to develop greater confidence in both their own abilities and in the value of pursuing further learning opportunities.

OUTSTANDING PROVIDER: HAWTHORN COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROJECT (HCEP)

Since 1982 HCEP has shown a dedication to providing innovative and exciting learning opportunities for a community of disabled and older learners in the Hawthorn area. The HCEP has demonstrated an ongoing and noteworthy ability to develop relationships with other education organisations and to foster relationships at the personal level of learners and tutors.

HCEP is to be particularly commended for finding innovative and exciting ways of extending the range of programs for their target groups and also for finding ways for other people in the community to play a role in their exciting developments. The range of activities and the community of spirit that exists at HCEP are an inspiration to the broad-spectrum of adult learning providers throughout the state.

Other events

In **Ballarat**, Adult Learners Week coincided with two significant events: the official announcement of Ballarat as a Learning City and the opening of the Centre for Lifelong Learning at the Aquinas Campus of the Australian Catholic University. Among the many other events to mark the Week, a gala dinner attended by 130 people was held to celebrate Learning in the Community. The highlight of the evening was guest speaker Russell Morris. A singer, entertainer and songwriter, Mr Morris kept the audience enthralled as he spoke of his learning experiences from his youth right through to today. Other events included a public forum about genetically modified foods, a learning day at Mars Confectionery and a bootscooting display.

Southern Grampians Adult Education, Hamilton Community House and Wetvic Group Training hosted the Adult Learners Week Games, with events including a paving race, computer mouse toss and adult literacy sports word find.

In **Colac**, ALW coincided with 21st birthday of Colac ACE. Lynne Kosky attended the celebration and launched the Building Communities Project Report and Colac ACE's contribution to the report. The event included displays of students' work, a performance by theatre group the Express Gang, a range of free sessions and a barbecue lunch.

Geelong held a week-long area Learning Festival as part of their Learning City Project. The festival was held in the public area of Market Square, and featured a Geelong Community Radio broadcast live from the square.

Castlemaine & District Community Education, **Community House**, **University of the Third Age** and **Maldon Neighbourhood House** joined forces to host a display at Castlemaine Market Building featuring displays of student work, yoga, tai chi, and a chess class. There was also a session on the history of railways, and a lecture by Dr Zygmunt Gizycki, President of the Pritikin Health Association of Australia about nutrition for the over 50s.

Moe Neighbourhood House held a range of special classes including card making, internet introductions, singing, patchwork, folk art, women's writing, needlework, Japanese and developing personal power.

The **Albury-Wodonga** region celebrated the second Festival of Learning during the Year 2000 with events and activities extending over a two-week period, culminating in Adult Learners Week. Key events during the Festival included the official opening by the Premier of Victoria, the Honourable Steve Bracks; presentations made by Bob Fryer, international visitor for Adult Learners Week and the launch of the Learning Alliance which brings together industry and business who are publicly acknowledged for their support and work for adult learning.

The Festival has enabled the inclusion of a variety of organizations such as schools, scout groups, service clubs, theatre groups, museums, local government, business and industry, to the extent that those not participating in 2000 have already lined up for 2001. In three locations, over a 2-week period, members of the community were able to see and hear learning occurring in shopping plazas hosted in particular by neighbourhood houses, the libraries, local universities and the Continuing Education Centre.

Steve Bracks, Premier of Victoria launching the Learning City Festival in Albury-Wodonga.

Gold Medal Earners

Pyramid Hill is a community of about 300 people. They celebrated ALW with the theme Adult Learners are **Gold Medal Earners**. Adult Learners were presented with an edible gold medal. Dianna Daykin was one of the winners who has almost finalised her CGEA. She has started to use the internet for her research activities and is learning the intricacies of email. The CGEA class is a very close knit group and Dianna is almost the matriarch. The others all hope she never graduates.

MANY COMMUNITY AND ADULT EDUCATION CENTRES HELD DISPLAYS IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA TO PROMOTE LEARNING IN THEIR AREA. HIGHLIGHTS OF SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES INCLUDED:

In and around Melbourne

Stephanie Young was the guest speaker at two forums about developing Learning Communities, held at the Pakenham Public Hall and Darebin Arts Centre, Preston. In between, she participated in a video conference organised by the Department of Education to connect towns and cities that have recently been granted funding to become Learning Communities.

A seminar featuring Bob Fryer was held at the Council for Adult Education, focusing on learning and business. This was followed by a seminar at Victoria University entitled 'Getting the Basics Right – the Way to the Future', emphasising literacy/numeracy and lifelong learning.

Donvale Learning & Living Centre held a free concert featuring Songs from our Planet music from other cultures by the Women of Notes *a cappella* choir.

Bob Fryer addressing the VIEP Seminar in Melbourne.

The City of Greater Dandenong celebrated Adult Learners Week with a tour of discovery. Six buses (300 people) toured the municipality looking at learning sites in the community. Sites visited included Community Centres, Neighbourhood houses, TAFE, AMES and the local library. Each site told learners about their classes and conducted tours. The tour concluded at the Town Hall where the Mayor, Cr Angela Long warmly welcomed the Adult Learners, talking about the strong 'Learning Community' of the municipality. Lunch was held while the children of Noble Park English Language School entertained the Learners.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

WA

Award winners

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: VALERIE BEST

Valerie Best couldn't read or write when she left school in Year 9. She says her children Ashley and Colby were her inspiration to finally learn how to read and write.

"It occurred me that if I wanted to give them the life and opportunities that I never had, I would have to educate myself. My life has changed dramatically since I learnt to read and write. I can now help my children with their homework".

As a result of the improvement in her literacy skills, Ms Best's writing ability and confidence has grown – to the point where she has produced a collection of poems, titled 'Poems of Hurt and Healing'.

"I enjoy expressing myself through poetry. I believe it helps people confront the ups and downs of everyday life," she said.

Ms Best is currently studying for her Certificate of General Education at C.Y. O'Connor College of TAFE and hopes one day to manage her own horticulture business.

OUTSTANDING TUTOR: LYNNE MARSHALL

Lynne Marshall is viewed as an inspiration by all her students at The Meeting Place and The Glyde-In Centre. Since she was young, Ms Marshall has been fighting a medical condition which causes fusion of the spine – giving her severe migraines and back pains. She also suffers from dystonia and her ability to write and carry out simple everyday activities has always been limited.

However, with the aid of new treatment and a hefty dose of determination, Ms Marshall has succeeded in not only overcoming her disabilities, she's also given her time free of charge to help other adults learn new skills.

Since 1994, Ms Marshall has been volunteering her time at The Meeting Place and The Glyde-In Centre, conducting up to eight courses a year on art.

"What distinguishes Ms Marshall as an outstanding tutor is her dedication to adult learners in the community," Meeting Place Centre Coordinator, Jan Bayman, said.

"This is evident in the variety of courses she conducts – and in the innovative manner in which she teaches her classes."

"She has a passion for working with people and relishes the opportunity to learn and develop her skills and knowledge through the informal learning atmosphere. Ms Marshall's courses illustrate a high level of imagination and creativity. She is also a strong advocate for two-way learning, believing that she both teaches and learns from her students."

OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: READ WRITE NOW!

Read Write Now! is an innovative way of assisting adults to learn basic literacy skills within a short time frame. Since its inception in 1977, the Read Write Now! program has helped on average 1000 adults per year to improve their literacy skills.

The program has many success stories, including the 77 year-old-gentleman who left school when he was 11 years of age, unable to read or write. The gentlemen – who only just completed the course – recently wrote a cheque for the first time in his life.

Read Write Now! works in cooperation with a number of public and private organisations, including learning centres, local government, libraries, TAFE and other professional bodies.

OUTSTANDING PROVIDER: C.Y.O'CONNOR COLLEGE OF TAFE

The College provides students in the wheatbelt area with a variety of vocational education and training solutions and is the principle provider of culturally appropriate training for indigenous people in the area.

From Left: Peter Mahler Managing Director of CY O'Connor TAFE, winner of the Outstanding Provider (Organisation) Award; Valerie Best, winner of the Outstanding Learner (Individual) Award; Larry Davies, Acting Chief Executive Officer Department of Training and Employment; Valerie Best, winner of the Outstanding Tutor Award; Marcia Barclay coordinator of the Read Write Now! Program, winner of the Outstanding Program Award; Ellen-May Eaton, from the Western Australian Branch of Adult Learning Australia and member of the Department of Training and Employment's Adult Learners Week Advisory Committee.

The College comprises five regional campuses located in Kellerberrin, Merredin, Moora, Narrogin and Northam with seven TAFE centres – in Beverley, Brookton, Pingelly, Wagin, Kondinin, Bruce Rock and Quairading.

The College has demonstrated the ability to listen to the needs of the community and respond in a positive manner, while the staff are very flexible with the delivery of services.

The Awards were held in Perth on the Friday evening. The morning after the Awards Valerie Best and her children were on the front page of The West Australian, providing a wonderful close to the 2000 Adult Learners Week in WA.

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Other activities

FIFTY-FOUR REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS ACROSS WESTERN AUSTRALIA PROVIDED A SMORGASBORD OF ACTIVITIES DURING THE 2000 ADULT LEARNERS WEEK, INVOLVING REMOTE COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTH WEST OF THE STATE, THROUGH THE EASTERN GOLDFIELDS AND DOWN TO THE MOST SOUTHERN AREAS OF WA.

These organisations included the statewide network of Regional Telecentres providing a variety of on-line workshops, demonstrations and open-days throughout the week.

For the small, isolated community of **Hopetoun** over 400kms from Perth on the southern coastline of WA, Open House Around The World at the local Telecentre provided an opportunity for adult learners to experience the wealth of knowledge available on the world wide web.

400kms north of Hopetoun in the wheatbelt community of **Southern Cross,** adult learners had the opportunity to learn online banking at the Southern Cross Telecentre, in association with the ANZ and Challenge banks.

At **West Arthur** in the south west, STING was an adult learning week project aimed at promoting the services and learning tools of the West Arthur Telecentre. This week-long open house was Support for Everyone, the Telecentre providing information and technology, Inspiring action and setting goals, Networking in our community, Growing life long learning opportunities.

In **Perth** another 30 organisations were involved in the Western Australian Department of Training and Employment's Adult Learners Week shopping centre promotions. With sponsorship from Perth's Community Newspaper Group, these activities were promoted to thousands of people through 10 community newspapers.

In and around Perth

Displays, demonstrations and workshops were held in fourteen shopping centres throughout the Perth metropolitan area with hundreds of volunteers representing their local organisations and promoting opportunities for adult community education.

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ALW 2001

Planning has commenced for Adult Learners Week 2001. Check the ALW website http://alw.ala.asn.au for regular updates. We are working to continue to expand the Week by developing the widest network of learning organisations possible. You can contribute ideas and suggestions by contacting the ALA national office at Adult Learning Australia, PO Box 308 Jamison Centre, ACT 2614 or email alw@ala.asn.au.

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Appendices

Photo Competition

WINNERS

Judges choice: Shayne McLean

Popular choice: Saint Helens Online Access Centre

JUDGES

Denise Ferris

Penny Boyer

Garry Traynor

Writing Competition

WINNERS

Jacintha Condillac

Mary MacMillan

JUDGES

Barbara Pamphilon

Jane Sampson

Stephen Matthews

Adult Learners Week Coordinators

Marita Hefler, National Coordinator

Sharon Carter & Felicity Cobcroft, ACT

Denise Taylor, NSW

Coralie Achterberg, NT

Annie Parks, QLD

Elayne Neill & Sue Ross, SA

Maggie Aird, TAS

Ali Sumner, WA

Georgina Waters, VIC

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Media and Publicity

Green Advertising was sub-contracted to design the promotional material for ALW 2000 and develop a media and communication strategy. Their generosity in producing the community service announcements for radio and television is gratefully acknowledged. The ALW team at Green consisted of:

Karina West

Michael Honey

Emma Jackman

Gillian Field (Gillian Field Consulting)

ALW National Team

The Adult Learners Week team consisted of Tony Brown, Marita Hefler and Jeanette Burgess, with support from the ALA National Office staff.

National Steering Committee

Dorothy Lucardie	Chair, Adult Learning Australia President
Dennis Adams	National Institute of Accountants
Tony Brown	Adult Learning Australia
Vaughan Croucher	MCEETYA ACE Taskforce
Anne French	MCEETYA ACE Taskforce
Catherine Gyngell	DETYA
Margaret Hamilton	TAFE Directors Australia
Annette Han	Automotive Training Australia
Marita Hefler	Adult Learning Australia
Elizabeth Holden	Jobs Australia
Tess Julian	NAWT
Liz Keyes	Australian National Training Authority
Helen Malcomess	Migrant Resource Centre
Adrian Morgan	Australian Institute of Training & Development
Donna Rooney	Local Community Services Association
Des Williams	Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Commission

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Award winners

NATIONAL

COMMUNITY LEARNING LEADER

City of Wodonga

JUDGES
Tony Brown
Vaughan Croucher
Rosemary Neal

RECONCILIATION LEARNING PROGRAM

Australians for Reconciliation (ACT) Inc

JUDGES
Dorothy Lucardie
Jennifer Newman
Michael Quall

Australian Capital Territory

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: Lola Krogh

OUTSTANDING TUTOR: Elizabeth Halfnights
OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: Marymead Separated Fathers Program

New South Wales

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: Paul Sadni
MERIT CERTIFICATE, OUTSTANDING LEARNER CATEGORY: Leslie Foster
OUTSTANDING TUTOR: Glenn Woof
MERIT CERTIFICATE, OUTSTANDING TUTOR CATEGORY: Hazel Sims
OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: Macquarie Community College Disability Program
OUTSTANDING PROVIDER: St George and Sutherland Community College
OUTSTANDING INDIGENOUS LEARNER: Christine McKiernan
RUNNER UP, OUTSTANDING INDIGENOUS LEARNER: Hilton Franks

Northern Territory

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: Wilco Van Syl
OUTSTANDING TUTOR: Peter Martin
OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: Faculty of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Northern Territory University
OUTSTANDING PROVIDER: Indigenous Education Branch, NT Department of Education

Queensland

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: Margaret Barnes
OUTSTANDING TUTOR: Margaret Cole
OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: Seasons of Growth Volunteer Program
OUTSTANDING PROVIDER: Emerald Agricultural College
OUTSTANDING REMOTE LEARNING COMMUNITY: Historical Woolscour Assoc Inc

South Australia

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: Murray Cartwright
OUTSTANDING TUTOR: Patricia Murphy
OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: Aboriginal Land Management Training Program
OUTSTANDING PROVIDER: Overseas Chinese Association

Tasmania

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: Tracey Charlesworth
OUTSTANDING TUTOR: Neil Nesbit
OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: St Helens Neighbournood House Inc-Volunteer Office Training Program
OUTSTANDING PROVIDER: (Joint winners) Recognition Services, Department of Education & Discover Online Learning Unit, Department of Education

Victoria

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: Denise Royal
OUTSTANDING TUTOR: Lyn Asling
OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: Geelong Adult Education & Training
OUTSTANDING PROVIDER: Hawthorn Community Education Project

Western Australia

OUTSTANDING LEARNER: Valerie Best
OUTSTANDING TUTOR: Lynne Marshall
OUTSTANDING PROGRAM: Read Write Now!
OUTSTANDING PROVIDER: C.Y. O'Connor College of TAFE

Adult Learning Australia Inc

Australian National Training Authority

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Adult Learners Week would not be possible without the many organisations shown here that sponsor or otherwise provide support. In particular, we would like to acknowledge:

State and Territory Departments of education and training for their coordination of state activities and assistance to providers through financial grants

Transact Communications for their assistance with the national launch

Ricoh Australia and Collins Booksellers for providing prizes for the Photo and Writing Competitions

Green Advertising for their production of the community service announcements.

AITD

Australian Human Resources Institute

Australian Capital Territory Education & Community Services Office of Training & Adult Education

Department of Education and Training

Northern Territory Employment and Training Authority

Queensland Government Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations

South Australia

Tasmania

Adult Education in the Community

Training and Employment

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Signature: M J Bates	Printed Name/Position/Title: MARGARET F BATES EXECUTIVE SUPPORT OFFICER	
Organization/Address: ADULT LEARNING AUSTRALIA PO Box 308, JAMISON ACT 2614 AUSTRALIA	Telephone: 02 6251 7933	FAX: 02 6251 7935
	E-Mail Address: info@ala.asn.au	Date: 05/12/02

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